

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-16

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USIE-00 INRE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSC-07 PA-04

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FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3632

INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, US, IS

SUBJ: KNESSET DEBATE SCHEDULED ON US-JORDAN COMMUNIQUE
AND RABIN INVITATION

1. UPON REQUEST OF 30 LIKUD KNESSET MEMBERS, KNESSET WILL
HOLD SPECIAL SESSION AUGUST 28 FOR DEBATE ON A) US-JORDAN
COMMUNIQUE REFERENCE TO DISENGAGEMENT OF FORCES AND B)

RABIN INVITATION. ACCORDING TO PRESS SOURCES,
LIKUD WILL ALSO RAISE EGYPT-US COMMUNIQUE AND POSSIBILITY
OF PLO PARTICIPATIOO IN GENEVA TALKS.

2. MAPAM KNESSET MEMBER ZAKIN HAS TOLD US THAT LIKUD

INTENDS TO DEVOTE CONSIDERABLE PORTION OF DEBATE TO CRITICISM OF
MANNER IN WHICH INVITATION TO RABIN WAS MADE, USING MARGINAL
MATTER OF PROTOCOL AND PRESTIGE TO LAUNCH ATTACK ON SECRETARY'S
ATTITUDE TO ISRAEL. HE BELIEVED THAT DEBATE WOULD BE UNPLEASANT,
WITH RABIN FORCED ON THE DEFENSIVE AMIDST GROWING POLITICAL CONCERN
ABOUT ALLEGED US PRESSURES, POLITICAL SLIGHTS, AND TURN TO MORE
PRO-ARAB ORIENTATION.

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3. UNDER ISRAELI LAW, OPPOSITION CANNOT INTRODUCE NO-CONFIDENCE MOTION AT SPECIAL KNESSET SESSIONS CALLED DURING RECESS PERIOD BUT LIKUD CLEARLY WILL TRY TO GET MAXIMUM PUBLICITY FOR ITS MOUNTING CAMPAIGN AGAINST US MIDEAST POLICY AND TRY TO DRIVE WEDGE OF DISCONTENT INTO RANKS OF RULING LABOR ALIGNMENT RE RABIN'S PERCEPTION AND HANDLING OF RELATIONS WITH US.

4. COMMENT. THIN-SKINNED ISRAELIS ARE BLOWING UP OUT OF ALL PROPORTION PROTOCOL COMPLAINS ABOUT SUCH THINGS AS MANNER AND TIMING OF ANNOUNCEMENT OF RABIN VISIT, AND RECEPTION BY PRESIDENT OF ARAB FOREIGN MINISTERS AND NOT FOREIGN MINISTER ALLON. PART OF THIS IS STIRRED UP BY NEWSPAPER COMMENT AND PARTLY BY OPPOSITION POLITICIANS. I BELIEVE ALL THIS WILL BLOW OVER AND RABIN AND GOI WILL EIA NTUALLY ACCEDE SUBSTANTIALLY TO USG PREFERENCES AS TO TIME OF VISIT AND PROBABLY PRIORITY SCHEDULE OF FURTHER TALKS---ALTHOUGH IF WASHINGTON DECIDES JORDAN TALKS SHOULD COME FIRST, THAT ADMITTEDLY WILL CAUSE SERIOUS PROBLEMS FOR RABIN. BUT AFTER ALL CONTINUATION OF SUBSTANTIAL MILITARY ASSISTANCE SPEAKS LOUDER THAN WORDS. TOP GOVERNMENT CIRCLES, ALTHOUGH TEMPORARILY ANNOYED, KNOW THAT.
KEATING

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